

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY POSITIONS AS

AUTHORIZED IN FY-74 TERRORIST AMENDMENT

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSS

REFERENCE: STATE 26356

1. SEVERAL SMALLER AFRICAN POSTS PROGRAMMED FOR RSO ASSIGNMENTS UNDER THE FY-74 TERRORIST AMENDMENT HAVE RESPONDED THAT DUE TO CEILING LIMITATIONS, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, ETC., SUCH ASSIGNMENTS REGRETTABLY CANNOT BE REALIZED. THUS, ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL RSO PLACEMENTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. PRETORIA IS CONSIDERED LOGICAL LOCATION AT WHICH TO INSTALL 2ND RSO DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENT POSTS AND EXTREMELY LARGE GEOGRAPHICAL REGION SERVED BY RSO PRETORIA, RESULTING, PERHAPS, IN LESS THAN DESIRED COVERAGE OF SOME POSTS. (NOT TO DETRACT FROM HIGHLY COMMENDABLE PERFORMANCE OF RSO GLENN).

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2. OTHER FACTORS FAVORING PRETORIA AS SITE FOR 2ND RSO INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, FACT THAT AMERICAN SECRETARY ASSIGNED RSO PRETORIA WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED WORKING FOR TWO RSO'S, INCREASED FRELIMO AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA REGIONS,

LESS THAN ADEQUATE HOST GOVERNMENT PROTECTION AT SOME POSTS; THE INCREASE IN PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ON HAND AND PROJECTED (UNDER THE TERRORIST AMENDMENT) TO BE EMPLOYED, IF NECESSARY, UNDER THE CONTROL OF A PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICER; THE INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY OF SECURITY PERSONNEL 2ND RSO WOULD PROVIDE IN COVERING CONCURRENT EMERGENCIES AT MORE THAN ONE POST; AND REDUCTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES LEVIED ON ONE RSO AS PRESENTLY STAFFED.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES EMPHASIZE THAT UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF TERRORIST AMENDMENT REPRESENTS NATION'S CONCERN AND DEPARTMENT'S FIRST OPPORTUNITY SUBSTANTIALLY UPGRADE SECURITY FORCE, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES ABROAD COMMENSURATE WITH LEVEL OF THREAT.

4. IN CONSIDERING ITS DECISION, POST SHOULD REALIZE THAT EVEN THOUGH RSO'S ARE SPECIALISTS IN THEIR FIELD, THEY ALSO CAPABLE OF ASSISTING POST IN OTHER DUTIES WHEN NOT FULLY OCCUPIED WITH SECURITY MATTERS. FURTHER, IF LEVEL OF THREAT DIMINISHES AND SECURITY POSTURE OF PRETORIA REGION DEVELOPS TO POINT WHERE 2ND RSO NO LONGER REQUIRED, DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO REASSIGN HIM AND ABOLISH POSITION.

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